

In the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An axle boot for joint sealing, comprising:

a joint housing including an external contour having a plurality of radial recesses;

a substantially axisymmetric bellows including an integral connecting collar formed as a single piece, the connecting collar including a plurality of indentations projecting radially inward, each indentation adapted to one of the radial recesses;

a plurality of compensating pieces connected to one another by a plurality of ring sections to form a single piece component surrounding an outer circumference of the connecting collar, the single piece component having a cylindrical outer circumferential surface, wherein at least one of the ring sections is elastically deformable sufficient to enable the single piece component to expand to a circumference larger than the outer circumference of the connecting collar; and

a circumferential clamp surrounding and contacting the single piece component.

Claim 2 (original): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein the axle boot is for sealing a joint on a drive train of a motor vehicle.

Claim 3 (original): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein a circumferential length of each of the plurality of compensating pieces corresponds approximately to a circumferential length of an associated radial recess.

Claims 4 and 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the ring sections includes a meander shape.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein the compensating pieces are integrated with the clamp as an integrated multi-component unit.

Claim 9 (original): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein each compensating piece includes a more than one material component, each of the material components having a different hardness.

Claim 10 (original): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the compensating pieces is a fluid-filled hollow body having flexible walls.

Claim 11 (original): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein the bellows is made of a thermoplastic copolyester (TPE).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of compensation pieces includes at least one radial supporting web.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An axle boot for joint sealing, comprising:

a joint housing including an external contour having a plurality of radial recesses;

a substantially axisymmetric bellows including an integral connecting collar formed as a single piece, the connecting collar including a plurality of indentations projecting radially inward, each indentation adapted to one of the radial recesses;

a plurality of compensating pieces disposed adjacent an outer surface of the connecting collar so as to form a cylindrical outer circumferential surface; and

a circumferential clamp disposed adjacent an outer surface of the connecting pieces, wherein the connecting pieces are connected to the clamp as an integrated multi-component unit;

wherein each of the plurality of compensating pieces are connected to the clamp using at least one rivet.

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 13, wherein a circumferential length of each of the plurality of compensating pieces corresponds approximately to a circumferential length of an associated radial recess.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 13, wherein each compensating piece includes a more than one material component, each of the material components having a different hardness.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 13, wherein each of the compensating pieces is a fluid-filled hollow body having flexible walls.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 13, wherein the bellows is made of a thermoplastic copolyester (TPE).

Claim 19 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of compensation pieces includes at least one radial supporting web.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The axle boot as recited in claim 13, wherein the plurality of compensating pieces are connected to one another by a plurality of ring sections to form a single piece component surrounding an outer circumference of the connecting collar, the single piece component having a cylindrical outer circumferential surface, and wherein at least one of the ring sections is elastically deformable.

Claim 21 (new): An axle boot for joint sealing, comprising:

- a joint housing including an external contour having a plurality of radial recesses;

- a substantially axisymmetric bellows including an integral connecting collar formed as a single piece, the connecting collar including a plurality of indentations projecting radially inward, each indentation adapted to one of the radial recesses;

- a plurality of compensating pieces disposed adjacent an outer surface of the connecting collar so as to form a cylindrical outer circumferential surface; and

a circumferential clamp disposed adjacent an outer surface of the connecting pieces,
wherein the connecting pieces are connected to the clamp as an integrated multi-component unit;
wherein the plurality of compensating pieces are connected to one another by a plurality of
ring sections to form a single piece component surrounding an outer circumference of the
connecting collar, the single piece component having a cylindrical outer circumferential surface,
and wherein at least one of the ring sections is elastically deformable.